GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:699
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
GM Technology
Ashok Kumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conventional plant breeding system and good crop varieties have given impetus for sustainable agricultural production in major crops like rice and wheat in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether GM technology is the most viable option for the country to continue its self dependency in foodgrains in the scenario wherein crops face various kinds of stress and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): Yes, Madam. The crop varieties developed through conventional plant breeding system have given impetus for sustainable production in rice, wheat and other crops. The productivity of rice and wheat has increased manifold from 668 kg/ha. and 663 kg/ha. in 1950-51 to 2390 kg/ha. and 2872 kg/ha. respectively in 2014-15.

In last two years 463 improved crop varieties have been developed through conventional plant breeding system, out of which 251 in cereals, 74 in oilseeds, 64 in pulses, 36 in fiber crops, 26 in forage crops and 12 in sugarcane.

(b): GM technology is one of technology among the available technologies to break the yield barrier in many crops including foodgrains through pest & disease resistance, abiotic stresses tolerance, value addition and quality improvement. Further, all genetically engineered products are assessed through various statutory bodies for food and environmental safety in accordance with the various guidelines and protocols under Rules 1989 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

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